

AMENDED IN SENATE FEBRUARY 23, 2006

Senate Concurrent Resolution

No. 79

Introduced by Senator Alquist

January 19, 2006

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 79—Relative to Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 79, as amended, Alquist. Crime victims.

This measure would recognize the week of ~~April 9 through April 15~~ 23 through 29, 2006, as Crime Victims’ Rights Week.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Violent crime continues to exist in California and
2 crime in one part of the state, or against one person, affects out
3 entire sense of well-being; and
4 WHEREAS, All Californians are affected by crime, not just
5 the victims of violent crime; and
6 WHEREAS, The most effective aid that can be provided to
7 victims of crime is to prevent crime from taking place in the first
8 place; and
9 WHEREAS, The National Crime Victims’ Rights Week is
10 celebrating its anniversary from ~~April 9 through April 15~~ 23
11 through April 29, 2006; and
12 WHEREAS, For the 25 years since 1981, National Crime
13 Victims’ Rights Week has raised awareness of the special needs
14 of crime victims; and
15 WHEREAS, *The theme for the 2006 National Crime Victims’*
16 *Rights Week is “Victims Rights: Strength in Unity”; and*

1 WHEREAS, The respect and protection of victims' rights
2 within the legal process is one of the most critical components of
3 an effective criminal justice system; and

4 WHEREAS, Victims and witnesses of crime require special
5 attention to ensure that they are thoroughly informed about, and
6 participate effectively in, the criminal justice system; and

7 WHEREAS, To the maximum extent allowed by law, victims
8 of violent crime should receive compensation for their losses;
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Each day, thousands of victims and witnesses
11 receive assistance from victim support organizations,
12 victim-witness assistance centers, private service providers, and
13 state and local governments; and

14 WHEREAS, The criminal justice system in this state must
15 persist in its effort to better coordinate and improve the quality of
16 services provided to victims and witnesses; and

17 WHEREAS, California has been a pioneer in victims' rights
18 and is observing the 41st anniversary of California's Victim
19 Compensation Program, the first, oldest, and largest in the
20 nation; and

21 WHEREAS, Since 1965, California has awarded over \$1
22 billion to help crime victims; and

23 WHEREAS, California citizens enshrined victims' rights in
24 the California Constitution in 1982 through the passage of
25 Proposition 8, the Crime Victims' Bill of Rights; and

26 WHEREAS, Each year, the observance of the National Crime
27 Victims' Rights Week focuses on the problems confronting
28 victims of crime and the services available to support these
29 victims; and

30 WHEREAS, The remembrances observed during National
31 Crime Victims' Rights Week promote awareness of victim issues
32 and acknowledge the combined efforts of citizens, government,
33 and the criminal justice system to improve victims' services in
34 California; now, therefore, be it

35 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
36 *thereof concurring, That the week of April 9 through April 15 23*
37 *through April 29, 2006, be recognized as Crime Victims' Rights*
38 *Week in California; and be it further*

- 1 *Resolved*, That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
- 2 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

O